

**Proposed Substitute  
Bill No. 5616**

LCO No. 3453

**AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICES AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. Section 1-225 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2       following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

3       (a) The meetings of all public agencies, except executive sessions, as  
4       defined in subdivision (6) of section 1-200, shall be open to the public.  
5       The votes of each member of any such public agency upon any issue  
6       before such public agency shall be reduced to writing and made  
7       available for public inspection within forty-eight hours and shall also  
8       be recorded in the minutes of the session at which taken. Not later than  
9       seven days after the date of the session to which such minutes refer,  
10      such minutes shall be available for public inspection and posted on  
11      such public agency's Internet web site, if available, and on an Internet  
12      web site designated by the Secretary of the State, except that no public  
13      agency of a political subdivision of the state shall be required to post  
14      such minutes on an Internet web site. Each public agency shall make,  
15      keep and maintain a record of the proceedings of its meetings.

16      (b) Each such public agency of the state shall electronically file not  
17      later than January thirty-first of each year [in] with the office of the  
18      Secretary of the State, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the  
19      State, the schedule of the regular meetings of such public agency for

20 the ensuing year and shall post such schedule on such public agency's  
21 Internet web site, if available, and on an Internet web site designated  
22 by the Secretary of the State, except that such requirements shall not  
23 apply to the General Assembly, either house thereof or to any  
24 committee thereof. Any other provision of the Freedom of Information  
25 Act notwithstanding, the General Assembly at the commencement of  
26 each regular session in the odd-numbered years, shall adopt, as part of  
27 its joint rules, rules to provide notice to the public of its regular,  
28 special, emergency or interim committee meetings. The chairperson or  
29 secretary of any such public agency of any political subdivision of the  
30 state shall file, not later than January thirty-first of each year, with the  
31 clerk of such subdivision the schedule of regular meetings of such  
32 public agency for the ensuing year, and no such meeting of any such  
33 public agency shall be held sooner than thirty days after such schedule  
34 has been filed. The chief executive officer of any multitown district or  
35 agency shall file, not later than January thirty-first of each year, with  
36 the clerk of each municipal member of such district or agency, the  
37 schedule of regular meetings of such public agency for the ensuing  
38 year, and no such meeting of any such public agency shall be held  
39 sooner than thirty days after such schedule has been filed.

40 (c) The agenda of the regular meetings of [every] each public  
41 agency, except for the General Assembly, shall be available to the  
42 public and shall be filed, not less than twenty-four hours before the  
43 meetings to which they refer, (1) in such agency's regular office or  
44 place of business, and (2) [in] electronically with the office of the  
45 Secretary of the State, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the  
46 State, for any such public agency of the state, in the office of the clerk  
47 of such subdivision for any public agency of a political subdivision of  
48 the state or in the office of the clerk of each municipal member of any  
49 multitown district or agency. For any such public agency of the state,  
50 such agenda shall be posted by the public agency on the public  
51 agency's [and the Secretary of the State's web sites] Internet web site, if  
52 available, and on an Internet web site designated by the Secretary of  
53 the State. Upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of a  
54 public agency present and voting, any subsequent business not

55 included in such filed agendas may be considered and acted upon at  
56 such meetings.

57 (d) Notice of each special meeting of [every] each public agency,  
58 except for the General Assembly, either house thereof or any  
59 committee thereof, shall be posted not less than twenty-four hours  
60 before the meeting to which such notice refers on the public agency's  
61 Internet web site, if available, and given not less than twenty-four  
62 hours prior to the time of such meeting by filing a notice of the time  
63 and place thereof [in] with the office of the Secretary of the State for  
64 any such public agency of the state, in the office of the clerk of such  
65 subdivision for any public agency of a political subdivision of the state  
66 and in the office of the clerk of each municipal member for any  
67 multitown district or agency, except that any such notice filed with the  
68 Secretary of the State shall be filed electronically. Any notice filed by a  
69 public agency of the state under this section shall be posted by such  
70 public agency, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State, on  
71 an Internet web site designated by the Secretary of the State. The  
72 [secretary or] clerk of a political subdivision of the state or the clerk of  
73 each municipal member of a multitown district or agency, as the case  
74 may be, shall cause any notice received under this section to be posted  
75 in his office. Such notice shall be given not less than twenty-four hours  
76 prior to the time of the special meeting; provided, in case of  
77 emergency, except for the General Assembly, either house thereof or  
78 any committee thereof, any such special meeting may be held without  
79 complying with the foregoing requirement for the filing of notice but a  
80 copy of the minutes of [every] each such emergency special meeting  
81 adequately setting forth the nature of the emergency and the  
82 proceedings occurring at such meeting shall be filed with the Secretary  
83 of the State, the clerk of such political subdivision, or the clerk of each  
84 municipal member of such multitown district or agency, as the case  
85 may be, except that any such copy of the minutes filed with the  
86 Secretary of the State shall be filed electronically, not later than  
87 seventy-two hours following the holding of such meeting. The notice  
88 shall specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business  
89 to be transacted. No other business shall be considered at such

90 meetings by such public agency. In addition, such written notice shall  
91 be delivered to the usual place of abode of each member of the public  
92 agency so that the same is received prior to such special meeting. The  
93 requirement of delivery of such written notice may be dispensed with  
94 as to any member who at or prior to the time the meeting convenes  
95 files with the clerk or secretary of the public agency a written waiver of  
96 delivery of such notice. Such waiver may be given by [telegram] means  
97 of electronic communication. The requirement of delivery of such  
98 written notice may also be dispensed with as to any member who is  
99 actually present at the meeting at the time it convenes. Nothing in this  
100 section shall be construed to prohibit any agency from adopting more  
101 stringent notice requirements.

102 (e) No member of the public shall be required, as a condition to  
103 attendance at a meeting of any such body, to register the member's  
104 name, or furnish other information, or complete a questionnaire or  
105 otherwise fulfill any condition precedent to the member's attendance.

106 (f) A public agency may hold an executive session, as defined in  
107 subdivision (6) of section 1-200, upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds  
108 of the members of such body present and voting, taken at a public  
109 meeting and stating the reasons for such executive session, as defined  
110 in section 1-200.

111 (g) In determining the time within which or by when a notice,  
112 agenda, record of votes or minutes of a special meeting or an  
113 emergency special meeting are required to be filed under this section,  
114 Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays and any day on which the office of  
115 the agency, the Secretary of the State or the clerk of the applicable  
116 political subdivision or the clerk of each municipal member of any  
117 multitown district or agency, as the case may be, is closed, shall be  
118 excluded.

119 (h) Any provision of this section requiring a public agency of the  
120 state to file with the Secretary of the State any meeting schedule,  
121 agenda, notice of special meeting or minutes of an emergency special  
122 meeting shall be deemed to require such public agency of the state to

123 post, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State, such  
124 meeting schedule, agenda, notice of special meeting or minutes of an  
125 emergency special meeting on an Internet web site designated by the  
126 Secretary of the State. The Secretary of the State shall designate an  
127 Internet web site for the purposes of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
---	--	--

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	1-225
-----------	---------------------	-------